

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6 and 8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 6 and 8 are amended to be put in independent form and incorporate the subject matter of claim 1. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Prompt allowance and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested, at least in light of the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5, 6 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Those claims are amended to be in independent form.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,938,412 to Li et al. ("Li"). The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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